Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Post Offices
19.	Tanjavur	434
20.	Theni	168
21.	Tiruchirappalli	700
22.	Tirunelveli	558
23.	Tiruvallur	298
24.	Tiruvasur	259
25.	Tiruvannamalai	487
26.	Tuticorin	430
27.	Vallore	684
28.	Vallupuram	638
29.	Virudhunagar	285
	Total	12043

Statement-II

Norms for opening of Post Offices

1. Norms for opening of new Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 Population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) In the hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas: 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33-1/3% of cost.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Norms of opening new departmental subpost offices:

2.1 In Rural areas:

The minimum of work load of the Extra-departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly.

2.2 In Urban areas:

2.2.1 In Urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The distance between two Post Offices should not be less than 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban areas. If it is a delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest delivery Post Office should not be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.3 A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

New Telephone Exchanges in Assam

*266. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open new telephone exchanges in Assam during the year 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) 1. Three new exchanges have already been commissioned; and

2. The equipment for balance twenty two exchanges has already been ordered and supplies are expected by March, 1999.

Statement

District-wise list of New Telephone Exchanges to be opened in Assam during 1998-99

Sl. No.	Name of District		Station	Capacity	Type
1.	Barpeta		Mandia*	256P	C-DOT
2.	Bongaigaon		Baithamari	256P	C-DOT
3.	Cachar	1.	Bantarapur	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Dargakona	256P	C-DOT
		3.	Meharpur-Silchar*	2000	E-10B RLU
		4.	Sadin Bazar	256P	C-DOT
4.	Dhubri	1.	Chagolia	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Halakura	256P	C-DOT
		3.	Salkocha	256P	C-DOT
5.	Dibrugarh		Pithaguti	256P	C-DOT
6.	Golaghat		Dhekial	256P	C-DOT
7.	Hailakabdi	1.	Kalacherra	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Tantoo	256P	C-DOT
8.	Jorhat		RRL-Jorhat*	1000	E-10B RLU
9.	Kamrup	1.	Basistha Charali	3000	CCB-RSU
		2.	North Guwahati	256P	C-DOT
		3.	Satgaon	1000	OCB-RSU
10.	Karbi Anglong	1.	Baithalanshu	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Silonijan	256P	C-DOT
11.	Kokrajhar		Bhowraguri	256P	C-DOT
12.	Morigaon		Charaibahi	256P	C-DOT
13.	Nagaon		Kuthori	256P	C-DOT
14.	Sibsagar	1.	Geleky	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Machagarh	256P	C-DOT
15.	Sonitpur		Borsola	256P	C-DOT

*Already opened.

Foodgrains Production

*267. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the exact production figures of foodgrains during this year;

(b) the crop outlook for sugar, oilseeds and coarse grains; and

(c) the reasons for slower growth of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The production of kharif foodgrains in the current year is estimated to be 101.03 million tonnes which is marginally lower than last years production. However, with the chances of better Rabi crops on account of favourable weather conditions, better reservoir situation, good pace of sowings and adequate availability of inputs, the prospects for overall food production during 1998-99 are brighter. The crop prospects for sugarcane and oilseeds are also better. However, the production of coarse grains is expected to be some what lower than the last year.